

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 6-11, 18-20, 22, 23 and 30-35 have been amended; and claims 1-5, 12-17, 24-29 and 36-37 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 6-11, 18-23 and 30-35 remain in this application and are again presented for the examiner's consideration in view of the following comments. Other than the amendments to independent claims 6, 8, 18, 20, 30 and 32 noted below, applicant submits that the amendments to the claims made herein are only to place the claims in better form, and that none of these amendments narrows the scope of any claim or is made for purposes of patentability. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Claims 1-2, 5, 12-14, 17, 24-26, 29 and 36-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,799,268 to Boguraev. In addition, claims 3, 15 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Boguraev in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,295,068 to Nishino et al.; and claims 4, 16 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Boguraev in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,497,319 to Chong et al. Applicant submits that the cancellation of claims 1-5, 12-17, 24-29 and 36-37 renders each of these rejections moot.

The examiner indicated that claims 6-11, 18-23 and 30-35 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 6, 8, 18, 20, 30 and 32 to place same in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend. By virtue of these amendments, applicant submits that these claims, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are now in condition for immediate allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the official action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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